

Economic Development Intern Thanks the Community
By Jessica Decker



The Garrard County Economic Development Office has temporarily doubled in number. My name is Jessica Decker, and I have been working fifteen hours per week since February as a student intern for Economic Development Director Nathan Mick. I will complete my internship this May.

I grew up in Shelbyville, Kentucky where I lived with my brother, William, and my parents, Jennifer and Bill Decker. Presently I am a senior at Centre College where I have had numerous experiences that have been relevant to my work in Garrard County. My coursework has helped me understand the influence that policy makers such as those in Garrard County have in creating and maintaining a business environment that is conducive to economic growth. In May I will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics and three minor degrees in mathematics, government, and political economy. After graduation I will begin a 4-week program entitled Accelerator at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt.

I have worked on numerous projects with Nathan in the Economic Development office. First, we developed a power point presentation about Garrard County that we presented to the Kentucky Cabinet of Economic Development in Frankfort. The aim of the presentation was to make the state cabinet more aware of the strengths of Garrard County's economy. Currently we are in the process of compiling information about Garrard County to be presented to prospective businesses. Once compiled, the information will help businesses understand the county's workforce, school system, government, and much more. In addition, we are working on an umbrella website for Garrard County, Lancaster, and many city and county organizations. Because, in today's world, the Internet plays an essential role in connecting people and places, improving web access to this community should only have positive results.

The chance to work in Garrard County has been amazing. During my time at Centre, I was unaware of this quaint community in such close proximity. In working here I have learned that Garrard County is a beautiful place where the pace of life and atmosphere is comfortable and inviting. On a personal note, I have met people here who exhibit traits that I admire. Lancaster is an exciting city where I have learned life lessons from local storeowners, lawyers, teachers, service men and women, pastors, and others. In an economic sense, this county is bursting with opportunity for expansion, and I appreciate having the chance to see how government officials work with other community leaders and organizations to bring about that change.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment Nathan, who has a strong commitment to bringing economic growth to this county. He works tirelessly, while managing multiple projects that will reap economic benefits for Garrard County in the future. I have learned a great deal from Nathan and other Garrard County leaders such as Mayor Rinthen, Judge Wilson, and Representative Napier. I admire their passion and commitment to developing the economy of this county. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work in Garrard County with each of these outstanding professionals and many more. I will long remember my time here. Thank you.